

walnuts and other trees still living in the surrounding country, but with the remains of the extinct mammoth; and of La Celle, near Moret, in the valley of the Seine.

Loess.—The physical characters and probable æolian origin of this remarkable deposit having been already mentioned (p. 566), we may now consider it in reference to its place in geological history. In central Europe it covers a wide area. Beginning on the French coast at Sangatte, it sweeps eastward across the north of France and Belgium (Hesbayan loam), filling up the lower depressions of the Ardennes, passing far up the valleys of the Rhine and its tributaries, the Neckar, Main and Lahr; likewise those of the Elbe above Meissen, the Weser, Mulde and Saale, the Upper Oder and the Vistula. Spreading across Upper Silesia, it sweeps eastward over the plains of Poland and southern Russia, where it forms the substratum of the Tschernosem or black-earth. It extends into Bohemia, Moravia, Galicia, Transylvania and Roumania, sweeping far up into the Carpathians, where it reaches heights of 2000 and, it is said, even 4000 or 5000 feet above the sea. It has not been observed on the low Germanic plains south of the Baltic, nor south of central France and the Alpine chain. Though thickest in the valleys (100 feet or more), it is not confined to them, but spreads over the plateaus and rises far up the flanks of the uplands. Near its edge, where it abuts against higher ground, it contains layers or patches of angular débris, but elsewhere it preserves a remarkable uniformity of texture.

The loess is sometimes found resting on gravels containing remains of the mammoth. It may be observed to shade off into more recent alluvial accumulations. It is probably